(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The incorporation, regulation and winding up of private Universities is within the competence of the State Legislatures. However, in order to maintain the standards of higher education, the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 were issued in 2003 and are presently in force.

At present, only the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has framed regulations, which were last revised in the year 2005, for the entry and operation of foreign universities/institutions for imparting technical education in India. A legislative proposal for regulating the entry and operation of foreign educational institutions, in India is under consideration of the Government.

A Review Committee has been constituted by Government under the chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to review the functioning of the University Grants Commission and the All India Council for Technical Education in the wake of the changes in higher, professional and technical education in India and demands of a new knowledge economy.

Prices of soft drinks

*400. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of soft drinks are very high in proportion to their cost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has enquired about it through any committee; and

(d) if so, what is the report of that committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The prices of non-essential commodities, including soft drinks, are governed by market forces. No abnormal rise in the prices of soft drinks has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) No committee has been appointed for the purpose by this Ministry.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy scheme for development of mega food parks

2792. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in a bid to boost the food processing industries, Government is considering a Rs. 1,500 crore subsidy scheme for development of mega food parks across the country;

(b) if so, whether as per the proposal, the food parks would be developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), jointly by Central Government, the State Governments and the private sector; and